

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 46 (cancelled)

Claim 47 (currently amended): A ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition for the prevention, amelioration and/or treatment of a disease comprising colostrum milk with elevated levels of ~~from a ruminant containing~~ immunoglobulin A (IgA) produced by the method of:

- (a) actively immunizing a pregnant ruminant mammal with an antigen by any two routes of administration selected from the group consisting of intramammary (IMM), intraperitoneal (IP), and intramuscular (IM); and
- (b) actively immunizing said ruminant mammal with an antigen by a third administration route selected from the group consisting of intramammary (IMM), intraperitoneal (IP), and intramuscular (IM);

with the proviso that all three administration routes are different, and wherein the milk contains an IgA that is specific to the antigen and has an IgA titre that is between 3 and 18 fold greater than that produced by conducting step (a) alone.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 47, wherein the two routes of administration in step (a) are IP and IM, and the third administration route of step (b) is IMM.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 47, wherein the two active immunizations of step (a) are effected sequentially, apart in time, or concurrently.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 49, wherein the two active immunizations of step (a) are effected concurrently.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 47, wherein the active immunizations of step (a) and step (b) are effected sequentially, apart in time, or concurrently.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 47, wherein step (a) and step (b) are repeated at least once prior to parturition.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 47, wherein step (a) is repeated twice, prior to parturition.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 53, wherein each step (a) is effected at an interval in the range of 2 to 8 weeks.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 54, wherein each step (a) is effected at an interval in the range of 2 to 4 week.

Claim 56 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 52, wherein step (a) is effected 6 to 14 weeks prior to parturition, the first repeat step (a) is effected at 2 to 10 weeks prior to parturition, and the last step (a) is effected at 1 to 4 weeks prior to parturition.

Claim 57 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 56, wherein step (a) is effected 8 to 14 weeks prior to parturition, the first repeat step (a) is effected at 4 to 8 weeks prior to parturition, and the last step (a) is effected at 1 to 4 weeks prior to parturition.

Claim 58 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of

claim 57, wherein step (a) is effected 8 weeks prior to parturition, the first repeat step (a) is effected at 4 weeks prior to parturition, and the last step (a) is effected at 1 week prior to parturition.

Claim 59 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 52, wherein step (b) is repeated once prior to parturition.

Claim 60 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 52, wherein the repetitions of step (b) are effected at 1 to 6 week intervals.

Claim 61 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 60, wherein the repetition is at 2 week intervals.

Claim 62 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 59, wherein the first step (b) is effected 3 to 12 weeks prior to parturition, and the second step (b) is effected at 1 to 10 weeks prior to parturition.

Claim 63 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 62, wherein the first step (b) is effected 4 to 8 weeks prior to parturition, and the second step (b) is effected at 2 to 4 weeks prior to parturition.

Claim 64 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 63, wherein the first step (b) is effected 4 weeks prior to parturition and the second step (b) is effected at 2 weeks prior to parturition.

Claim 65 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 47, wherein the antigen is selected from the group consisting of bacteria, yeasts, viruses, mycoplasmas, proteins, haptens, animal tissue extracts, plant tissue extracts, spermatozoa, fungi, pollens, dust, and a combination thereof.

Claim 66 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or-dietary~~ supplement composition of claim 65, wherein the antigen is a yeast antigen.

Claim 67 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or-dietary~~ supplement composition of claim 66, wherein the yeast is *Candida albicans*.

Claim 68 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or-dietary~~ supplement composition of claim 65, wherein the antigen is a protein antigen.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or-dietary~~ supplement composition of claim 47, wherein the antigen is formulated as a suspension.

Claim 70 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or-dietary~~ supplement composition of claim 47, wherein the antigen is administered together with a carrier, a diluent, a buffer, an adjuvant, or a combination thereof.

Claim 71 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or-dietary~~ supplement composition of claim 70, wherein the antigen is administered together with an adjuvant.

Claim 72 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or-dietary~~ supplement composition of claim 71, wherein the adjuvant is Freund's complete adjuvant (FCA), Freund's incomplete adjuvant (FIC), cholera toxin B subunit, or aluminum hydroxide.

Claim 73 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or-dietary~~ supplement composition of claim 71, wherein the adjuvant is *Bordetella pertussis*, muramyl dipeptide, a cytokinin, or saponin.

Claim 74 (currently amended): The ~~feed-or-dietary~~ supplement composition of claim 72, wherein the adjuvant is Freund's incomplete adjuvant.

Claim 75 (currently amended): The ~~feed or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 47, wherein the antigen is administered together with an antibiotic.

Claim 76 (currently amended): The ~~feed or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 47, wherein the antigen used in each active immunization is the same or different.

Claim 77 (currently amended): The ~~feed or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 71, wherein the antigen used in each active immunization is the same.

Claim 78 (currently amended): The ~~feed or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 47, wherein the pregnant ruminant mammal is a cow, goat, or sheep.

Claim 79 (currently amended): The ~~feed or~~ dietary supplement composition of claim 78, wherein the cow is a dairy cow.

Claim 80 (currently amended): A ~~The feed or~~ dietary supplement composition for the prevention, amelioration and/or treatment of a disease comprising colostrum milk with elevated levels of ~~from a ruminant comprising~~ IgA produced by the method of:

- (a) actively immunizing a pregnant ruminant mammal with an antigen by any two routes of administration selected from the group consisting of intramammary (IMM), intraperitoneal (IP), and intramuscular (IM); and
- (b) actively immunizing said ruminant mammal with an antigen by a third administration route selected from the group consisting of intramammary (IMM), intraperitoneal (IP), and intramuscular (IM);

with the proviso that all three administration routes are different and wherein the milk contains a higher total IgA titre that is between 3 and 18 fold greater than that produced as compared to an IgA produced by conducting step (a) alone.